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REMARKS

Applicants hereby elect species IV (FIG. 6) without traverse. Claims 1-8 and 10-17 are believed to read on species IV.

The Restriction Requirement alleges that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species. Specifically, species I – FIG. 3; species II – FIG. 4; species III – FIG. 5; and species IV – FIG. 6.

FIGS. 3-6 are top plan views of various embodiments of bonding pads in accordance with the present invention. All of FIGS. 3-6 show bonding pads having a photo mask area, a clearance area, a land area and a plugged via. In FIG. 3, the land area is circular; in FIG. 4, the land area is square; in FIG. 5, rectangular; and in FIG. 6, rectangular with cut-outs.

Claims 1-5 and 10-14 are believed to be generic. That is, claims 1-5 and 10-14 cover the embodiments shown in FIGS. 3-6. Claims 6-7 and 15-16 are directed to the embodiments shown in FIGS. 4-6; claims 8 and 17 are directed to the embodiment shown in FIG. 6; and claims 9 and 18 are directed to the embodiment shown in FIG. 5.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance, and early examination and allowance respectfully are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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